



## Wisconsin Hops Growers Seek Special Pesticide Registration

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MADISON – Members of the public may comment until Feb. 16 on a proposed special pesticide registration to help Wisconsin hops farmers control sucker growth on their plants, which in turn helps prevent pests and diseases.

At the request of growers and manufacturer FMC Corp. of Philadelphia, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is proposing to allow use of Aim EC® on hops in Wisconsin. The active ingredient in Aim EC® is carfentrazone-ethyl, which causes the suckers to dry up.

This product is already allowed for use on other field and vegetable crops in Wisconsin, but not for use on hops. According to its current labeling, it may be used on hops in Idaho, Washington and Oregon, the major hops-producing states. However, hops are becoming an increasingly important crop in Wisconsin as the craft brewery industry expands.

No other product is available in Wisconsin that will control growth of suckers, or shoots at the bottom of the plant. These suckers may form a dense canopy at ground level that creates a good environment for diseases and pests.

Following a preliminary environmental assessment, the department has determined that a full environmental impact statement is not necessary. This special registration will expire Dec. 31, 2019.

For a copy of the assessment, call or email Otto Oemig, [otto.oemig@wi.gov](mailto:otto.oemig@wi.gov), 608-224-4547. It is also available for viewing at the department, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, second floor, weekdays 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Comments may be emailed to Oemig or mailed to DATCP-ARM, PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911. Those received by Feb. 16 will be included in the preliminary environmental assessment.

The special registration process allows states to register uses for pesticide products not included on the Environmental Protection Agency product label, without prior federal approval. It helps growers address local pest problems that cannot be adequately controlled by any available federally registered product. These problems include insect outbreaks, fungal diseases, grasses and weeds that outcompete crops, and special pest problems such as suckers growing from hops plants.

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